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# Arab Arms Sales Draw Less Protest

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WASHINGTON, March 21 — The Reagan Administration's proposed arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations this year are meeting less opposition than usual from supporters of Israel, partly because of the cloud cast over Israeli-American relations by the Pollard spy case and the Israeli role in the Iran-contra affair.

Administration officials say they plan to sell the Saudis \$200 million in electronic jamming equipment for American-built F-15 and F-5 jet fighters, \$400 million worth of helicopters including 15 Bell Combat Scouts armed with TOW anti-tank missiles, 200 Bradley armored personnel carriers for \$450 million, radar, air-to-ground mis-

siles and other equipment.

The law requires Congressional notification of sales over \$14 million, after which Congress has 30 days to pass a resolution of disapproval. Notification has been sent on the Bradleys, officials say, and is to be sent soon on the jamming equipment and helicopters.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz and other Administration officials, who have been on Capitol Hill to survey Congressional attitudes, have decided to avoid a confrontation by withholding the most contentious proposal: the conversion of Jordan's Hawk anti-aircraft missile batteries from fixed installations to mobile units that could be moved close to the Israeli border.

Jordan's request for the conversion has been on the table for a decade but

has not been renewed recently. "We've discussed it," a senior State Department official said, "but it is not under active consideration."

Without that item, the arms package seems to face more ambivalence than opposition in Congress.

Although Representative Lawrence J. Smith, Democrat of Florida, and a few other Congressmen plan efforts to block delivery of certain items — particularly the jamming devices and the helicopters — early indications point to something short of the all-out fight that is customary when Israel's military interests are concerned.

The main pro-Israel lobbying group, the American-Israel Political Action Committee, is reportedly leaning away from an intense public effort to stop the sales, although it is privately encouraging Mr. Smith, one of his aides said.

At the group's executive committee meeting in New York this month, Jewish leaders who attended said a consensus developed that this was not the best time for a confrontation with the Administration.

"The problem is," one of the Jewish leaders said, "U.S.-Israel relations are clearly filled with tension points. I've got plenty of people in my constituency who want to go to bat on them no matter what. I'm more interested in the U.S.-Israel relationship."

The substance of the relationship does not appear to have been hurt. Administration officials expect an expansion of the close American-Israeli military cooperation.

But the tone of the relationship has been damaged by the espionage affair, in which Jonathan Jay Pollard, a civilian employee of the United States Navy, was sentenced to life imprisonment this month for selling intelligence information to Israel. A lesser irritant has been Israel's role as broker in the secret American arms sales to Iran.

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